



FEBRUARY 26, 2010 – MARCH 11, 2010

Bringing You Good News

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 15

Timely Tidbits ...**Taylor Police Records Bureau Changes Hours**

The Taylor Police Department has announced a change in the Records Bureau's hours of operation. Effectively immediately, the Bureau office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to TPD Lieutenant Mary Sclabassi, the change is being made in response to reduced staffing.

The following changes have also been made regarding police reports and other services.

- Police Reports:** An Information Sheet/Request is available in the lobby of the Police Department. Customers can leave the completed form in the locked drop box in the lobby, and their police report request will be processed.

- Traffic Reports:** Traffic reports are available on the Internet at <https://payments.clemis.org/extservices>.

- Record Clearance:** Request a criminal conviction history at <http://apps.michigan.gov/ICHAT/Home.aspx>.

- Request for Property Return:** Persons who wish to have property returned to them must complete a request form (available in the Police Department lobby) and leave it in the locked drop box there.

- Pistol Purchase Permit:** Applications for pistol permits are available Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Records Bureau office.

- Concealed Pistol License:** All CPL requests are handled by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. Applications are available online at the Wayne County Sheriff Web site or at the front desk of the Police Department.

- Fingerprinting:** Fingerprinting services are available for Taylor residents *only*. To make an appointment, call 734-374-1510. For 23rd District Court-ordered requests, report to the Police Department's front desk. All other requests can be processed through LI Identix Solutions. Information sheets are available in the lobby. □

Taylor Police Sergeant Receives Medal of Honor

A Taylor police sergeant has received the department's highest honor for shooting a gunman who fired 200 shots and wounded an Allen Park police officer during a standoff in an Allen Park neighborhood.

Sergeant Frank Kornexl was presented with the Medal of Honor by Taylor Chief of Police Dale Tamsen during the February 17 meeting of the Taylor City Council. Kornexl received a standing ovation from the crowd, which included about a dozen of his fellow officers.

Chief Tamsen told of Kornexl's heroics as a member of the Downriver Mutual Aid SWAT Team during an incident in Allen Park on May 22, 2009.

When Kornexl arrived at the scene, he was told that an Allen Park officer had been shot, and that the gunman was barricaded in a house and had continued shooting.

Kornexl entered the inner perimeter of the incident area and located a position from which to contain the threat. He saw several rounds fired from the house toward an area where other officers were deployed, and the gunman also fired rounds toward Kornexl's location.

Kornexl fired one round and struck the gunman, Mark David Fussner, who was later pronounced dead at the scene.

The standoff began when a 24th District Court officer attempted to serve Fuss-



(From left) Sergeant Frank Kornexl of the Taylor Police Department received certification of his medal of honor from Taylor Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand and Chief of Police Dale Tamsen. Photo by Dave Gorgon

ner with an eviction notice at his home. As an Allen Park officer approached the house, Fussner shot him with small-game pellets. The pellets struck the officer in the forehead, nostrils, chest, arms, and hands, police said.

The Allen Park officer was able to take cover behind his car and return fire. The

incident soon escalated, and lasted seven hours. The SWAT Team was summoned. At one point, police officers were fired upon for an hour straight. Tamsen said that more than 200 rounds were fired from several weapons as Fussner "held an entire neighborhood hostage."

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Voters To Face Two Millage Proposals in May School Election

At its February 22 meeting, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education unanimously approved the placement of two millage proposals on the ballot for the district's annual election, to be held on Tuesday, May 4.

One proposal addresses the district's authority to continue levying its "operating" millage; the second is a request for a 4.25-mill "sinking fund" increase to be used for purposes such as the construction, repair, and maintenance of school buildings and facilities.

The ballot language follows.

CONTINUATION OF OPERATING MILLAGE

The Romulus Community Schools (the District) is authorized by State law to levy a voter-approved millage of up to 18.00 mills on non-homestead and nonqualified agricultural property and up to 16.63 mills on owner-occupied residential "principal residence" or "homestead" property and qualified agricultural property. The amount levied on principal residences and qualified agricultural property for the 2009–2010

school year was 6.4332 mills. The authority to levy this millage expires with the 2011 tax levy. This proposal would restore and continue the District's authority to levy this millage for an additional ten years (2012–2021), and would allow the District to receive the full foundation allowance revenue permitted by law.

To provide operating funds for the Romulus Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, shall the limitation on the taxes that may be levied upon taxable property in the District be increased by 18.00 mills (\$18.00 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value), with all 18.00 mills to be levied on non-homestead and nonqualified agricultural property and up to 16.63 mills (\$16.63 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) to be levied on principal residences and qualified agricultural property, for a period of ten (10) years, 2012 through 2021 inclusive? The estimate of the revenue the School District will collect from combined taxes authorized herein if the millage is approved and levied in the 2012 calendar year is approximately \$14,500,000.

YES

NO

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SINKING FUND MILLAGE LEVY

The Romulus Community Schools (the District) was authorized by voters to establish a sinking fund and to levy a sinking fund millage of 0.75 mills in November of 2008. The following proposal increases the District's sinking fund millage levy by 4.25 mills for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law for the calendar years 2010 through 2017, inclusive.

Shall Romulus Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, increase its sinking fund levy by 4.25 mills (\$4.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law for the calendar years 2010 through 2017, inclusive? It is estimated that the 4.25 mill increase would raise approximately \$4,950,000 in the first year that it is levied.

YES

NO □

Guest Commentary

McLachlan: Data First, Then Decision

By Robert W. McLachlan, trustee, Romulus Community Schools Board of Education

On Thursday, February 18, there was a Town Hall Meeting at Romulus Middle School. This meeting was held under the auspices of the Redesign Committee that the Board of Education established as an advisory body back in October.

Before I go further, I want the Committee members to know that I absolutely value their time, work, and dedication to serving the community. I attended some of their meetings, and saw their commitment. In no way do I want my comments that follow to be construed as me "attacking" or discrediting their work or involvement.

However, it is my opinion that the Redesign Committee, *as an advisory committee to the Board of Education*, should have made a full report of their findings to the Board, for our input and direction, so that the Board could then direct the Administration to develop the financial impact(s) of the plan(s) to report and discuss with the community. I made my opinion on this matter very clear before this meeting was held, to no avail. For those community members who attended that meeting, I apologize to you that you were not given any substantive information. To say the least, the meeting was premature and, again, in my opinion, not well prepared.

It is also important to note that the Board of Education *does not* have any detailed information about the redesign plan, other than what was presented at the meeting. In fact, the details that were available were released to the public prior to my receiving the information as a Board member.

Specifically, the recommendation from the Redesign Committee would create a K-5 elementary configuration at Wick, Halecreek, Barth, and Romulus elementary schools. Merriman Elementary students would be shifted to Halecreek, and students attending Cory Elementary would go to Wick. The "plan" also calls for the Adult Education and Community High/Middle School programs to be moved from the Mt. Pleasant Center to Merriman, and the pre-K and child-care programs to be housed at Cory.

It is important to note that there are some very good facets to this plan. Sixth-graders would benefit from a more rigorous curriculum opportunity, and even have the chance to earn high school credit. The district would be in a position of using our physical resources in a more efficient, cost-effective manner.

At this meeting, which any reasonable person would expect, there were some high emotions and tension, as the Committee recommendation is to "repurpose" two elementary schools and place the sixth grade into the middle school. Some in attendance raised questions, as was their right, regard-

ing administrative pay, cuts, etc. Those who posed that type of question were, in my opinion, treated with disregard, disrespect, and outright rudeness. I apologize, as a member of the Board of Education, that I did not rise up to speak out against this treatment. I felt that, had I done so at the time, it would have exacerbated the situation, much like throwing gasoline on a fire. Please know that I will address my concerns with those statements through the manner available to me as an elected member of your Board of Education.

It is my intention to vote to send this matter back for reconsideration, or, at the very least, to direct the superintendent to have substantive documentation relative to impact and cost before he seeks the authority to begin implementing this plan. I will not do what has been requested of me – to vote to give the administration the authority to execute this plan, *then* develop the impact assessments and cost implications. I don't subrogate my authority as a duly elected member of the Board of Education at any time. I will only vote on this plan when I have been provided with all available pertinent data to make an informed, reasoned decision. To me, it would seem absolutely foolhardy and irresponsible to vote to authorize such a wide-ranging plan with no definitive data and cost analysis. We are in the midst of financial chaos, as are almost all Michigan school districts, and authorizing structural changes without knowledge of their financial impact, in my opinion, would show a very serious lack of judgment.

I urge residents to contact their school board members, to attend our meetings, and to voice your comments and concerns. We, as a community, must be proactive in our deeds. We must make judgments and decisions based upon solid fact, not, "We think this will be the result."

You deserve better.

* * *

Editor's note: The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share their views on matters of interest to readers of the little paper.

For more information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □

ATTENTION: Residents of Romulus

If you have not yet received your 2010 City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department calendar, please call 734-941-8665.

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John D. Dingell, Nation's Longest-serving Congressman, To Seek Reelection

Congressman John D. Dingell has announced that he will seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 15th Congressional District of Michigan. The iconic Democrat and longest-serving Congressman in our nation's history cited the state's economic woes and the need to fight to protect the interests of working families as the key factors in his decision.

"Given the current status of our economy, Michigan needs experienced leaders in Washington to stand up for our families and help dig the state out of this economic depression," Dingell stated. "Now is not the time to walk away. I have the experience and determination to make sure we are

doing what we have to do to create jobs and get this economy back on its feet."

"I am putting all my effort into fighting for Michigan's working families," he added. "I will continue this crucial fight if voters of the 15th Congressional District decide to honor me with another term in office."

Dingell spoke of how he intends to continue his efforts to enact new laws to prevent Wall Street from "ever again engaging in the risky, greedy behavior that sent our nation into an economic tailspin."

Said the congressman, "The rascality that took place by the greedy fat-cat bankers on Wall Street is repulsive, and we cannot allow that to happen ever again. Now more

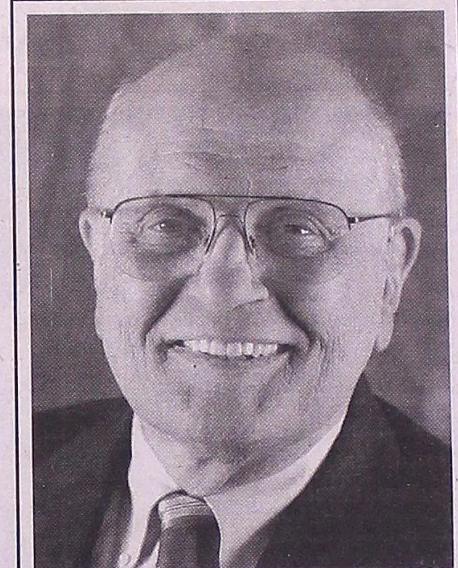
than any other time I have seen, there is a need for relentless and dogged questioning from Congress, and as your 'watchdog,' that is exactly what I am doing. I have introduced legislation that I intend to see enacted into law that would allow the government to break up banks before they are again allowed to get to the point that they are 'too big to fail.'

"Further," he continued, "I have introduced legislation that would tax these outrageous mega-bonuses being given to the very bankers who helped created the financial mess we are now digging out of. It is unconscionable that companies dependent upon the largesse of the federal government for their very existence should, in turn, pay the very employees partially responsible for our current calamity such irresponsibly exorbitant bonuses, while working families across the country continue to struggle."

Dingell cited several other priorities that influenced his decision to seek re-election.

"I have had the great privilege of serving Michigan's working families for many years, but as I make my way around the District, I hear from the people that they still have more for me to do.

"My people want to know: Why are Americans coming home from the market with dangerous food? Why are health-care companies reporting record profits while forcing millions of working families to go without insurance? I have a record of asking



Congressman John D. Dingell

tough questions, getting answers, and finding common-sense solutions to problems.

"From protecting our food supply, to reforming our broken health-insurance system, to putting a sensible energy policy in place to break our dependence on foreign oil ... I hear from Michiganders that they want me to stay in Congress to fight for them. I have more to do in Congress for working families, and I ask the people of Michigan's 15th Congressional District to send me back to Washington to continue fighting for them as their watchdog and their champion." □

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Taylor Police Sergeant Receives Medal of Honor

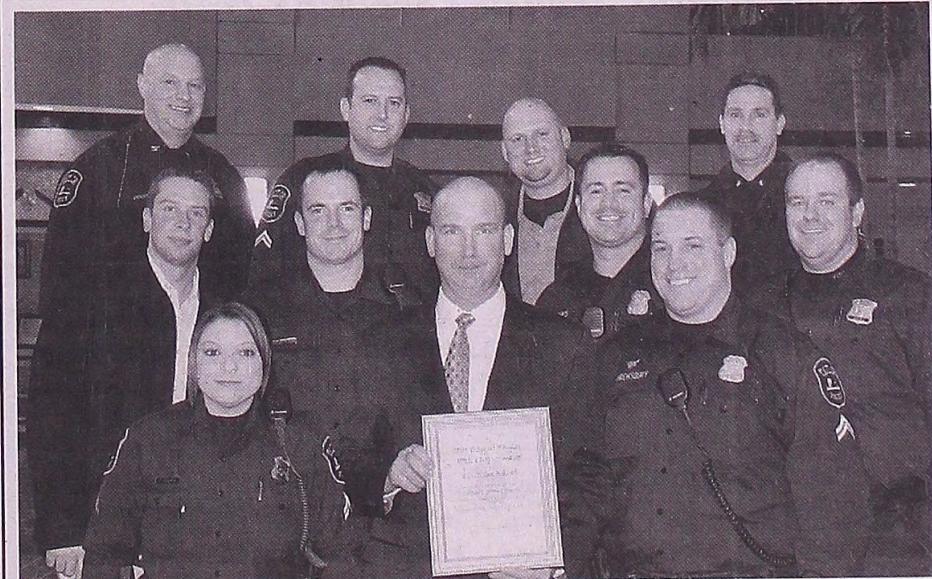
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Later, police found seven weapons in the home, four of which had been fired by Fussner. The Allen Park officer was later treated at a hospital and released.

"An investigation revealed that the defendant had planned to barricade himself in the house," said Tamsen. "The defendant had several long guns and a handgun

inside the residence, and had placed ammunition near windows in each room of the house."

Chief Tamsen said Sergeant Kornexl put himself "in a life-endangering situation with possibility of loss of life, going above and beyond the call of duty." He added that the sergeant's actions exemplified "personal sacrifice and extreme bravery." □



After receiving the Medal of Honor – the highest possible award for a police officer – Kornexl was congratulated by fellow Taylor officers: (from left) front – Corporal Rosanna Hopper and Corporal Aaron Shrewsbury; middle – Detective Nick Hill, Sergeant Rick Hopper, and Corporal Dave Jones; back – Chief of Police Dale Tamsen, Corporal Eric Jones, Detective Marc Gaynier, and Commander Dan Crowell. Photo by Dave Gorgon

Taylor Firefighters Recognized for Saving Auxiliary Policeman's Life



Taylor firefighters who saved the life of an Auxiliary Police member were honored during a recent City Council meeting. Posing for the photo as members of City Council applauded were (from left) Fire Chief Vince Fedel, Fire Medic Bryan Schwesing, Lieutenant Chad Cousino, Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, and Captain Glenn Ross. Fire Medic Jason Anderson was unable to attend the meeting.

Four Taylor firefighters have been honored for their efforts in saving the life of a volunteer member of the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department.

The firefighters – Captain Glenn Ross, Lieutenant Chad Cousino, and Fire Medics Bryan Schwesing and Jason Anderson – were honored with a certificate of appreciation during the February 16 City Council meeting.

Fire Chief Vince Fedel said the four were instrumental in saving the life of Lieutenant Charles Owens, a member of the Auxiliary Police, the evening of January 15.

The firefighters were summoned to Owens, who was suffering chest pains. They

treated and transported him to Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, where a doctor said that Owens had experienced a heart attack and three arteries had closed. He received four stents in two arteries during surgery.

"I was in extreme distress, and these men made me feel as comfortable and relaxed as possible," Owens said in a letter to the City. "I believe if it wasn't for the Fire Department's quick response and professional skills that I would not be here writing this letter."

"These men went above and beyond in my eyes," he added. "I credit these fine heroes from the Taylor Fire Department who ... helped save my life that night." □

Romulus Students Helping Haiti

By Kevin Mizzi, AmeriCorps VISTA representative for Romulus Community Schools

The Romulus school district has committed a great deal of time and effort to help those who are in need. Since the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, elementary and secondary students alike have generated numerous ideas on how they could help.

Many thought of quick fundraisers. Wick Elementary, for instance, collected just over \$1,000, and culminated its two-week fund-raiser with a "staff vs. sixth-graders" volleyball game. Romulus High School collected over \$700 from "Hats for Haiti," with students paying \$1 for the privilege of wearing a hat in school, while also contributing to the earthquake relief effort through other fund-raising means.

Cory and Halecreek elementary schools also held fund-raisers. Hale-

creek's effort featured a "Kids for Quarters" drive that involved hanging a chain link in the hall, as a reminder of the students' mission, for every \$.25 donated. Cory's "Cash for the Cause" generated \$400, as students generously contributed to aiding their fellow man.

Other schools took different approaches to helping Haiti. First-graders at Barth Elementary collected shoes and money; the shoes were then donated to a nonprofit organization called Soles for Souls. Merriman Elementary will be creating an Art from the Heart project called "Hearts for Haiti." The objective is for students to create the hearts, which can then be "purchased" for a donation and inscribed with a name. The hearts will be displayed within the school.

Altogether, the district raised a combined \$2,500 in donations for a number of organizations, including Forgotten Harvest and the American Red Cross. □

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Local Wrench Continues Local Family's Tradition of Auto Service and Repair

By Rikki Stobos

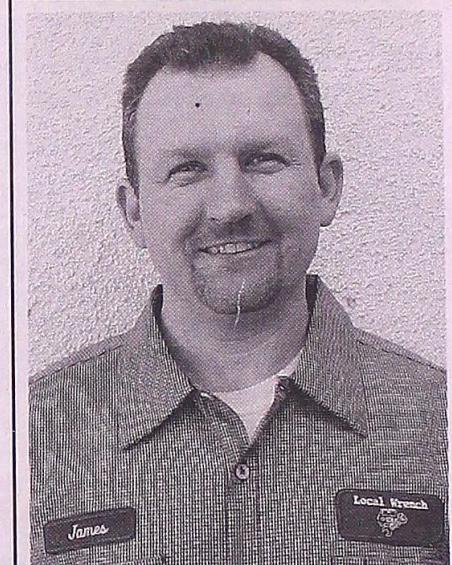
"Like father, like son." If you're one of the many area residents who used to entrust your automobile to Potter's Tire and Brake Center in Romulus, that phrase will be music to your ears. That's because James Potter, Jr., has followed in his father's footsteps, and opened Local Wrench on Huron River Drive at Five Points.

James Jr. has lived and breathed the automotive business since he was a boy. He learned at the knee of his father, who opened a shop in a house on Grant Road in 1979. When the younger Potter was just five years old, he was already using his own set of real tools to make real repairs. In fact, it was at that age that he broke his foot while rebuilding a lawn mower engine, which he dropped because he wasn't strong enough to hold on to it.

Naturally enough, Potter studied auto mechanics in high school. Through the years, he broadened his skills by taking numerous classes and seminars in subjects like electronics, brakes, and air-conditioning, and is currently a State of Michigan-certified auto mechanic.

In 1995, James Jr. closed Potter's Tire and Brake Center to pursue his dream of stock car racing. For 12 years, he raced on the ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) circuit and, in the meantime, honed his skills by doing engine work as well as frame and chassis design and fabrication for his race cars. Yet, part of him yearned to go back to his roots.

"Ever since I sold the old shop, I have regretted it," he said. "Repair work may be dirty, but it's satisfying. I grew up here in Romulus, and my father and I took a lot of pride in treating our customers fairly, doing good work at a reasonable price. I'm look-



James Potter, Jr.

ing forward to offering that same quality service again."

Today, James Jr. is operating his new shop, Local Wrench, with the help of his fiancée, Diana Thompson, who takes care of the service-writing and other office duties. James Sr. drops by two or three times a week to visit and, occasionally, "get dirty" by helping his son with the many types of work done at the shop.

"Our services include all repairs on all makes and models, as well as new and used tire sales," said James Jr. "We are excited to give Five Points a dependable, affordable, one-stop auto-care center for years to come."

Local Wrench – located at 12003 South Huron River Drive – is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For further information, please call 734-992-2565 or see the advertisement on page 12. □

"Winter Olympics" Not Just in Vancouver



Teachers, parents, and students at Barth Elementary in Romulus didn't have to travel to another country to enjoy the spirit of the 2010 Olympic games. That's because physical-education teacher Sheila Stasak adapted the theme to the school's annual Family Fun & Fitness Night, held on February 11. Here, kindergartner Aubrey Duprey (left) and second-grader Raeanna Ratliff attempt to go for the gold in the "Barth Bobsled" event.

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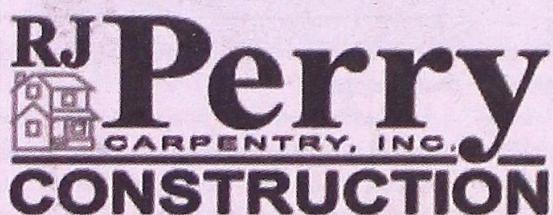
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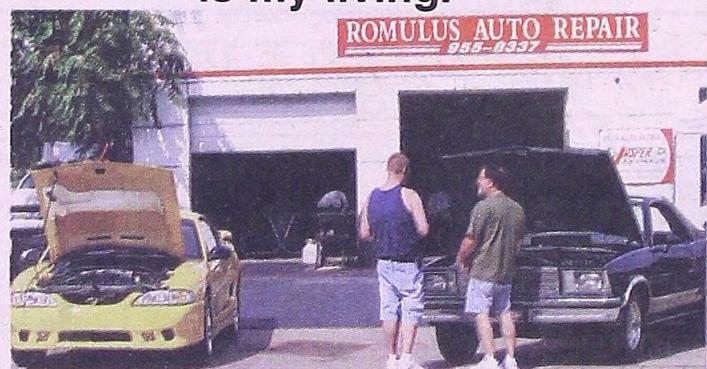
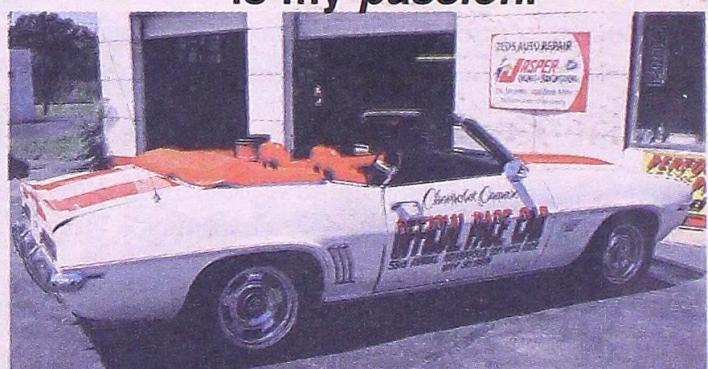
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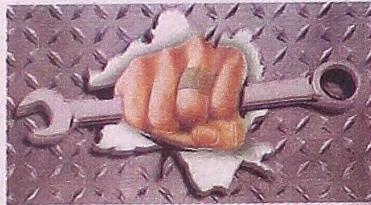


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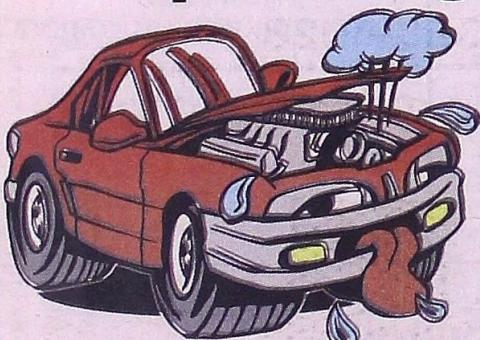
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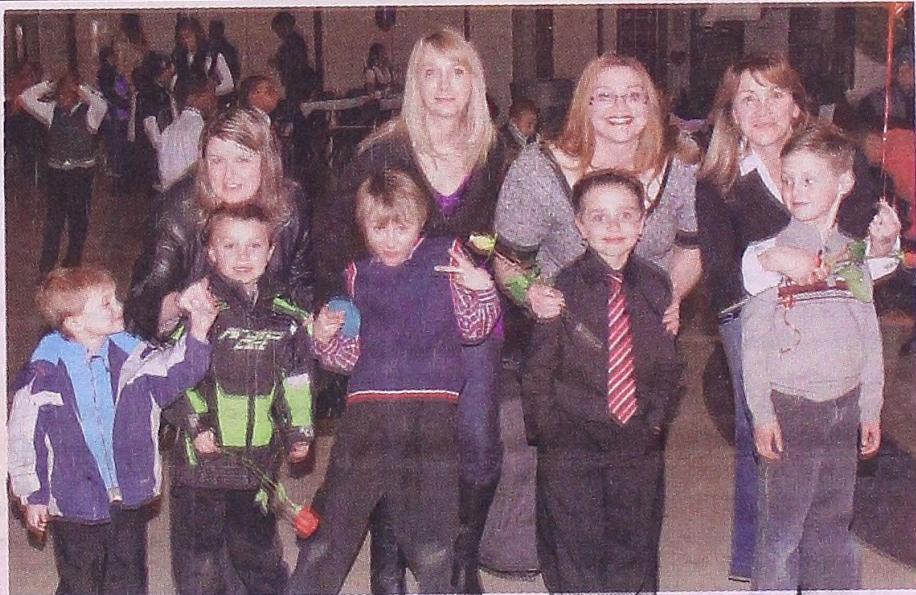
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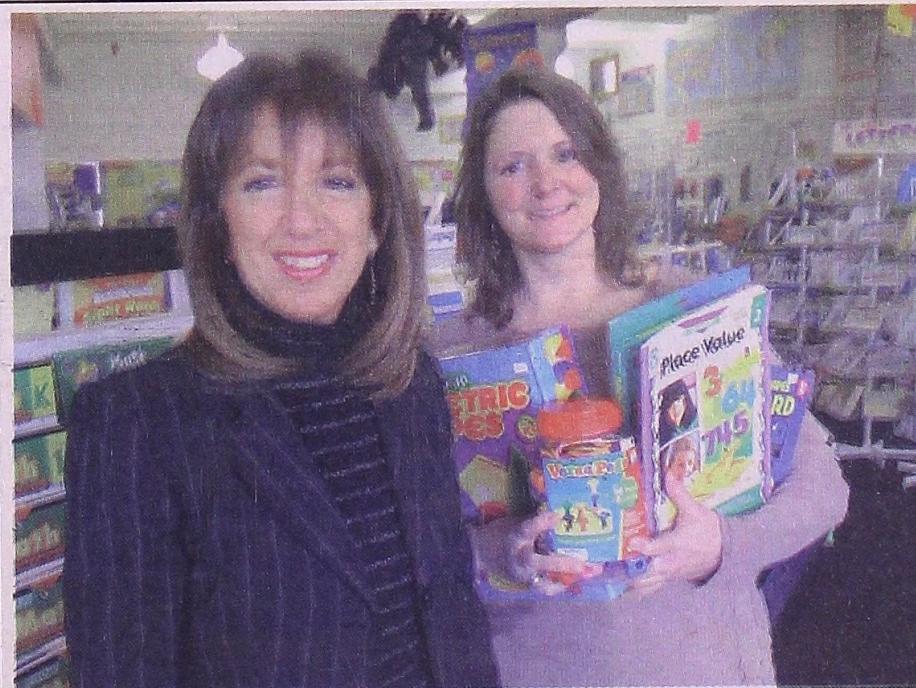
This & That



Among those stopping by the Romulus Senior Center to celebrate Fat Tuesday (February 16) with paczki and coffee were (from left) Jeanette Dziobak, Larry Romak, Phyllis Kasper, and Theresa Golembiewski. Photo by R. E. Kadau



Although inclement weather moved the annual Mother-Son Dance back a day, from February 10 to February 11, no one's spirits were dampened in the least! The event, offered by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation and held at Romulus High School, was attended by more than 300 people. Photo by R. E. Kadau



Rhonda Danaj (right), a second-grade teacher at Holland Elementary School in Taylor, was able to purchase \$1,000 worth of school supplies from Learning Gizmos in Warren thanks to winning the grand prize in the recent Eastern Michigan University Education First Stimulus Initiative. Danaj is an EMU alumna – one of the criteria for entering the contest that was designed to help teachers in the classroom. Also pictured is Learning Gizmos owner Nancy Korte.

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to *the little paper* at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5.

Belleville

Community-wide Sale

South Middle School (45201 Owen Street) will hold its Mid-Winter Community-wide Sale – an event featuring craft items, mom-to-mom stations, and much, much more – on Saturday, February 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rent tables (\$10 each) to sell just about anything you want!

Registration forms are available at the school or online at <http://sites.google.com/site/smsptso/south-middle-school-ptso-2>.

To donate items for the fund-raiser, contact smsptso@live.com for pickup and drop-off locations.

Romulus

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (37200 Neville Street) will hold all-you-can-eat Lenten fish fries from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday from through March 26.

Dinner includes your choice of baked or fried fish, macaroni & cheese, seasoned potatoes or French fries, green beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert, and beverage.

The recommended donation is \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children 4 to 10. Children 3 and under eat free (with adult purchase). Three-piece carry-out dinners are \$8 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Little League Registration

Romulus Little League will hold its final registration for the 2010 baseball and softball season at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins Street) on Wednesday, March 3. Parents/guardians must supply three proofs of residency and an original copy of each child's birth certificate at the time of registration.

The program is open to all Romulus residents ages 5 to 18.

Cost is \$45 for one child, \$65 for two children from the same immediate family, or \$75 for three or more. Participation in a candy fund-raiser is also required. A \$20-per-family volunteer deposit will be returned once four hours of volunteer time has been completed.

For information, call 734-913-9646 or visit www.romuluslittleleague.com.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in for discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for future discussion include:

- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain (March 8),
- *The Wailing Wind* by Tony Hillerman (April 12),
- *Darker Than Night* by Tom Henderson (May 10), and
- *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus (June 14).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Roast Beef Dinner Benefits Charities

Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will hold its next Roast Beef Dinner fund-raiser on Saturday, March 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, salad, dinner roll, dessert, and beverage will be available for a suggested donation of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children over five. Dine in or carry out!

For information, call 734-941-0736.

Taylor

Crochet Class

The Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) is accepting registration for beginning and intermediate crochet classes that will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday (March 3–24) and Thursday (March 11–25 & April 1), respectively.

Cost is \$30 per four-week class.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

Taylor Police To Sponsor Blood Drive

The Taylor Police Department will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive at the former main fire station (11101 Pine Street, just south of City Hall) on Monday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments may be made by calling Marge Maladecki (734-374-1445), although walk-ins are also welcome.

Growing Great Gardens!

Ready to get your hands in the dirt? Learn effective gardening tips and tricks? See the latest in gardening trends? Shop for tools and plants? Then this one-day event – sponsored by the Taylor Conservatory Foundation, Taylor Garden Club, and the Wayne County Community College District – is for you!

Growing Great Gardens! will feature presentations by keynote speakers Iris Lee Underwood (Yule Love It Lavender Farm) and George Papadelis (Telly's Greenhouse), as well as a choice of classes on topics such as vegetable gardening made easy, growing perennials, container gardening, creating butterfly habitats, "dog-scaping," vanquishing varmints, eco-wise gardening, and cooking with fresh herbs. Breaks will be given for shopping opportunities and a box lunch (provided). Also among the day's highlights will be door prizes, goody bags, and information about volunteer opportunities.

The event will be held at the WCCCD Downriver Campus (21000 Northline Road) on Saturday, March 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25 for early registrants; \$30 for those who sign up after March 1.

For information and/or registration, visit www.taylorconservatory.org.

Craft and Vendor Show

A craft and vendor show fund-raiser will be held at the Taylor Moose Family Center (9981 South Telegraph Road) on Sunday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will also feature a bake sale, raffle, and 50/50 drawings.

A few tables (\$25 each, plus \$5 for electricity) are still available for rent. For information, call Sue Richards at 734-414-0239.

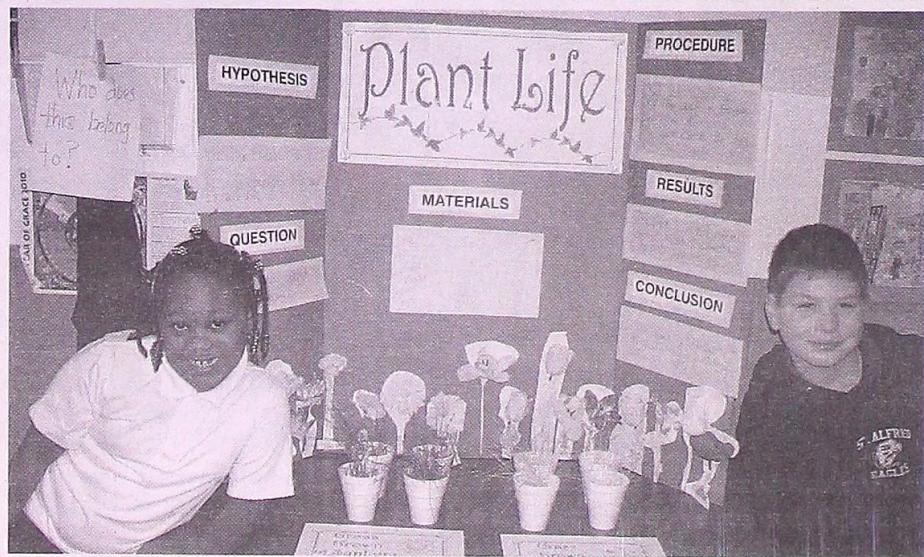
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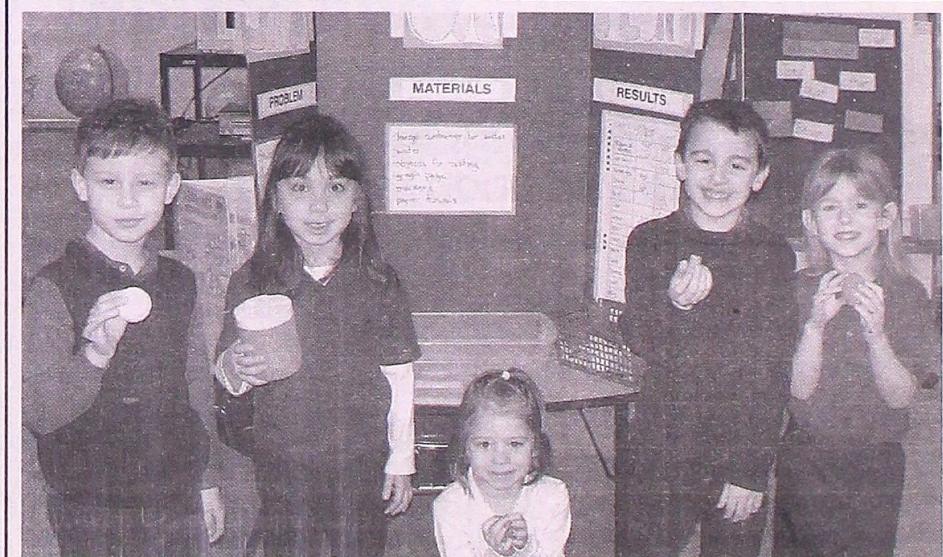
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Students Study Science at St. Alfred Catholic School



At St. Alfred Catholic School, the annual Educational Fair gave second-graders like Jessica Early and Nickolas Hopper an opportunity to explore science-related questions, such as, "Does grass need light to grow?"



Which objects will sink in a water bath? Which will float? (From left) Ethan Gazzard, Nizza Zulueta, Ella Nowc, Joey Slaviero, and Mary Zotter were among those who found out for themselves through hands-on experimentation.

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Free Tax Preparation

The Romulus Senior Center is offering a free tax-preparation service for residents with low incomes and those who are age 60 and older. Volunteers trained by the IRS will be available *by appointment only* from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Friday through April 14.

Participants should bring all of the following (relevant) documents: last year's tax returns; forms W-2, SSA-1099, and 1099-R; statements of 401 income and unemployment compensation; child-care expense information; forms indicating income tax paid; and receipts/canceled checks (if itemizing deductions).

Call to make an appointment.

St. Patrick's Luncheon

The Great Lakes Medical team will be hosting a St. Patrick's Luncheon at the Romulus Senior Center on Wednesday, March 24, beginning at noon. Besides a delicious meal, those who attend will be treated to an educational program about managing diabetes.

Advance registration is required.

Special Trips

Special trips planned for the coming months include:

- **Windsor Casino** (Wednesday, March 24; \$5 cost includes \$15 in casino incentives), and
- **Gamblemania** (Thursday and Friday, April 15-16; \$118).
Call for details.

Culinary Class

The Senior Center will hold its next monthly culinary class on Friday, March 12, at 11:30 a.m.

Advance registration is required. Call for details.

Jewelry-making Class

The next of Maria Lambert's always popular jewelry-making classes will be held on Wednesday, March 10, at 5 p.m.

Cost is \$10. Advance sign-up is required.

Regular Programs

Contact the Senior Center for more information on these free or low-cost weekly programs, including:

- bingo (Mondays/Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- knitting/crochet classes (Wednesdays, 10 a.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.),
- painting (Fridays, 11 a.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Monthly Services

The Romulus Senior Center distributes liquid nutrition, commodities, and Focus: HOPE goods.

Not sure if you qualify? Call for more information.

Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot meal at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for a suggested donation of just \$2.25. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

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AARP Offers Free Tax Preparation

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Ford Senior Activity Center each Thursday through April 8. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information, including a list of required materials/forms.

Homestead Tax Help

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will be on hand each Monday *by appointment only* to help seniors (age 65 and older) and disabled individuals prepare their Homestead Property Tax forms.

Call the Center for an appointment.

St. Patrick's Day Party

Enjoy pot pies and music by Eddie O when the Ford Senior Center celebrates St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$7. Deadline for tickets is Friday, March 12.

Restaurant Roundup

Enjoy lunch out at Lone Star and Russell Stover in Dundee (Tuesday, March 9) and at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland (Tuesday, March 23).

Participants will pay \$2 for transportation, plus the cost of the meal. Advance registration is required.

Greektown Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Greektown Casino is for you! The Ford Center's new bus will depart at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, April 23, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Cost is just \$2! Sign up early.

Other Destinations

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

- Michigan Historical Museum/lunch at Clara's (Tuesday, March 30; \$5 plus cost of lunch), and
- North American International Banjo Convention (Saturday, May 1; \$10 plus cost of dinner).

"Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

New faces are welcome!

Check Your Blood Pressure

The Center has tentatively scheduled free blood-pressure checks from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 4; Thursday, March 11; Tuesday, March 16; and Thursday, March 25. Just drop in! □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries**Paulette B. Crane**

Paulette B. Crane of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on February 19, 2010, at the age of 64.

A daughter of the late Roy Earl and Mary Ruth (Cheak) Meadows, she was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on September 5, 1945.

Paulette, who retired from Eastern Michigan University after 32 years of service, was also a co-owner of Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI). She was a member of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, and held a real estate license and a limited life insurance license, as well.

Paulette loved sewing, letter writing, flowers, and gardening. Bowling and golfing were also among her interests. Social groups to which she belonged included the Red Hat Society and the Ladies Literary Club of Ypsilanti.

Surviving Paulette are her son, James E. (Christina) Slagenwhite (Belleville); her daughter, Jennifer R. Slagenwhite (Ann Arbor, MI); her son, Bill A. (Isabelle) Crane (Spring, TX); her former husband, William Crane (Romulus); 7 grandchildren, Breanna, Jenna, Caleb, Sandra, Ali, Jennifer, and



Paulette Crane

Michael; and a sister, Lynn Cranston (Statesville, NC).

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 24, at Crane Funeral Home, with Reverend William A. Kren (The Evangelical Church) officiating. Burial was at Highland Cemetery (Ypsilanti).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund.

Jack C. L. Smith

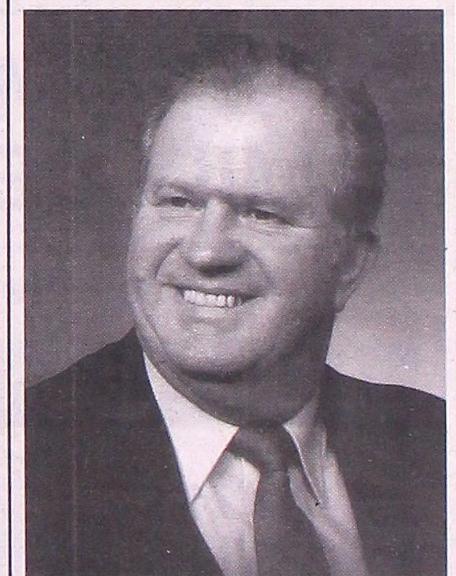
Jack C. L. Smith of Burton Branch, Morehead, Kentucky, passed away on February 21, 2010, at the age of 77.

The former resident of Romulus, Michigan, was born in Haldeman, Kentucky, on August 23, 1932.

Jack was a United States Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient who served in Korea during the Korean Conflict. As a young man, he operated a chain of Detroit-area service stations, and was later employed as a truck driver for Ford Motor Company until his retirement. Jack was an adherent of the Baptist faith, and a member of Ashlar Masonic Lodge No. 91 (Detroit, MI) and the Wayne County Coon Hunters Association (MI). He enjoyed hunting, fishing, skeet shooting, and pitching horseshoes.

Surviving Jack are his wife, Shirley Faye Sanders Smith, whom he married on August 13, 1958; 2 daughters, Pam (Faron) Henderson (Olive Hill, KY) and Patty (Bruce) Terrio (Hartland, MI); a brother, Charles Blevins (South Rockwood, MI); a sister, Marian Hunt (Garden City, MI); 4 grandsons, Nathan Ryver, J. J. Ryver, Michael Terrio, and David Terrio; a great-granddaughter, Tatum Faye Ryver; and numerous nieces, nephews, and loved ones.

Those who preceded him in passing were his parents, Marion Anderson Smith and Ada Susan Lands Smith Blevins; his stepfather, William R. Blevins; six brothers, Bill Smith, Robert "Toodle" Smith, J. Albert Blevins, "Junior" Blevins, Oather L. Blevins, and O. Hilton Blevins; and two sisters,



Jack Smith

Mary Evelyn Smith Clark and Jalaina Smith.

Masonic services were conducted by Morehead Masonic Lodge No. 654 on February 24. Funeral services were held on February 25 in the chapel of the Lane-Stucky-Gray Funeral Home (Morehead), with the Reverends David Keeton and Andy Lands officiating. Michael Terrio, Jonathan Smith, Jay Vinson, Randy Mayle, Jim Young, Donald Brado, David Blevins, and Nathan Ryver served as pallbearers. Burial took place in the Fultz Cemetery on Christy Creek (Morehead). Morehead American Legion Post No. 126 conducted full military rites at the graveside. Mourners may sign the guest book at www.lanestuckygray.com. □

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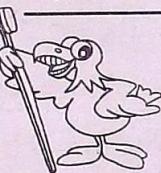
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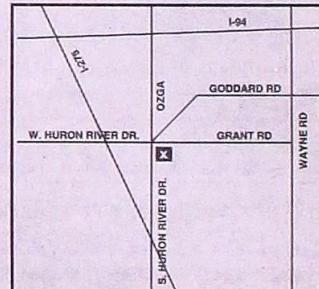
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